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b. No.: SUN1P604), entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEMS" naming Kavacheri et al as inventors; (ii) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/521,282 (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P602), entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A VIRTUAL HOST IN ELECTRONIC MESSAGING SERVERS" naming Belissent et al as inventors; (iii) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/520,864, (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P603), entitled "PRECEDENCE RULES IN ELECTRONIC MESSAGING SERVERS", naming Huff et al as inventors; and (iv) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/519,948 (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P605), entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DELEGATING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES TO DOMAINS SERVED BY EMAIL PROVIDERS", naming Abbott et al as inventors.

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's request for a supplemental declaration to correct the defective execution by one of the inventors, and is taking action to have a supplemental declaration executed. When it is obtained, the Applicant will forward it to the Patent Office.

A number of claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,920,697 issued to Masters et. al. (hereinafter referred to as *Masters*) in view of U.S. Patent 6,154,738 issued to Call (hereinafter referred to as *Call*). *Masters* teaches at column 2, lines 50 - 55, "...a technology for the automatic discovery and use of routing information and the calculation of all possible message routes with that environment based upon the discovered knowledge..." and at column 3, lines 30 - 35, "...[T]he repository includes an identity of at least one destination site, a plurality of routes for reaching the destination site, and a total cost associated with each of the respective plurality of routes...". Therefore, *Masters* is limited to updating a routing table after ascertaining all possible message routes and determining a total cost of each of a plurality of routes based upon at least one destination site for an email message having components already known to an associated directory service.

In contrast to *Masters*, the invention teaches at page 6 lines 3 - 5 of the instant specification, a method for " ... identifying, in a directory server, a new mail domain associated with an incoming email message that is received by a messaging server ...". More specifically, claim 1 as originally filed recites,

"...receiving a new domain name associated with the incoming message at the messaging server;

creating a corresponding entry in a directory in the directory server for every component included in the new domain name that does not already exist in the directory;

automatically updating a corresponding real domain service record in a domain name server associated with the directory server based upon the entry; and

identifying the new mail domain by the directory server based upon the automatically updated real domain record..."

Therefore, the invention as recited in claim 1 is directed at creating an entry in a directory for every component (not already in the directory) included in a *new domain name* associated with an incoming email message. In this way, a corresponding real domain service record in a domain name server associated with the directory server is automatically updated based upon the created entry for any incoming email message.

In contrast to the invention as recited in claim 1, *Masters* does not teach nor reasonably suggest automatically updating a real domain service record in a domain name server for an incoming email message as required by the invention as recited in claim 1. *Call* is merely directed at, "[M]ethods and apparatus for disseminating over the Internet product information..." (see Abstract) and adds nothing to *Masters* with regards to the invention as claimed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that neither *Masters* nor *Call* taken singly or in any combination teach or reasonably suggest the invention as recited in claim 1 and is therefore allowable over the cited art. The Examiner is therefore requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 1 as presented.

Independent claim 10 recites substantially the same limitations as does claim 1 and therefore the Applicant contends that claim 10 is also allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons cited for independent claim 1.

All remaining dependent claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 or 10 and are therefore also allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons stated for claims 1 or 10.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the

prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION

This application takes priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Patent Application No 60/144,709 filed July 20, 1999 (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P600P1) naming Daryl Huff, et al. as inventor(s) and assigned to the assignee of the present application which is also incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. This application is also related to the following co-pending U.S. Patent applications, which are filed concurrently with this application and each of which are herein incorporated by reference, (i) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/520,865 (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P604), entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEMS" naming Kavacheri et al as inventors; (ii) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/521,282 (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P602), entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A VIRTUAL HOST IN ELECTRONIC MESSAGING SERVERS" naming Belissent et al as inventors; (iii) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/520,864, (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P603), entitled "PRECEDENCE RULES IN ELECTRONIC MESSAGING SERVERS", naming Huff et al as inventors; and (iv) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/519,948 (Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P605), entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DELEGATING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES TO DOMAINS SERVED BY EMAIL PROVIDERS", naming Abbott et al as inventors.